



IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An enhanced filtration and water conditioning system for a bait tank comprising:

(a) bait tank having a top, a bottom and an essentially oval shaped exterior wall connecting the top and bottom of the tank, first and second interior compartment lid covers pivotally attached to the top of said bait tank and each selectively covering a cutaway portion of the top of said tank, first and second interior water compartments separated from one another and the wall, top and bottom of the portions of the tank via rip a second interior wall and a second interior bottom, a dual compartment filtration unit removably accommodated within the interior portion of the second compartment, filtration unit inflow and outflow water conduits each of said conduits communicably attaching said filtration unit to said first and said second interior compartments, and;

(b) pump means of circulating water from said first compartment into and through said second compartment and returning said circulating water to said first compartment;

(c) a water conditioning unit attached to the bait tank via input and output water conditioning conduits, the water conditioning compartment having a tubular conductor in communication with an evaporator, compressor and condenser forming a heat exchanger; a refrigerant traversing said tubular conductor;

means for circulating water from said first compartment internal portion through said second compartment internal portion and cooled thereby via said water's traversing of a water flow conduit; said water flow conduit surrounding of heat exchanger means also housed within the interior portion of said second compartment; and

a water transfer conduit connecting said compartments and said means for circulating water.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a water conditioning unit attached to the bait tank via input and output water conditioning conduits.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the bait tank further comprises one or more tubular rod holders affixed to tank's exterior wall.
4. Canceled
5. Canceled
6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a control means for presetting upper and lower reference temperatures for said water in said bait tank.
7. An enhanced bait tank filtration and water conditioning apparatus comprising:
 - (a) bait tank having a top, a bottom and an essentially oval shaped exterior wall connecting the top and bottom of the tank, first and second interior water compartments separated from one another and the wall, top and bottom of the portions of the tank via rip a second interior wall and a second interior bottom, a dual compartment filtration unit removably accommodated within the interior portion of the second compartment, filtration unit inflow and outflow water conduits each of said conduits communicably attaching said filtration unit to said first and said second interior compartments;
 - (b) pump means for circulating water from said first compartment into and through said second compartment and returning said circulating water to said first compartment;

(c) a water conditioning unit attached to the bait tank via input and output water conditioning conduits, the water conditioning compartment having a tubular conductor in communication with an evaporator, compressor and condenser forming a heat exchanger; a refrigerant traversing said tubular conductor;

means for circulating water from said bait tank through said water conditioning compartment internal portion and cooled thereby via said water's traversing of a water flow conduit, said water flow conduit positioned between .005 inch and .015 inch distant of said heat exchanger means also housed within the interior portion of said second compartment; and

a water transfer conduit connecting said compartments and said means for circulating water.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a control means for presetting upper and lower reference temperatures for said water in said first portion.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the bait tank further comprises one or more tubular rod holders affixed to tank's exterior wall.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the bait tank further comprises first and second interior compartment lid covers pivotally attached to the top of said bait tank and each selectively covering a cutaway portion of the top of said tank. allowing access to said one or more tubular rod holders affixed to tank's exterior wall.

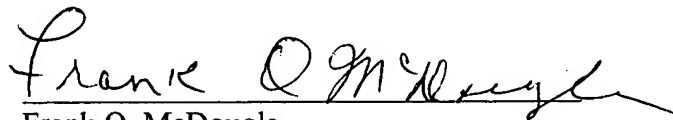
REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 31, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 7 – 10 have been allowed and that Claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Office Action, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 4 and 5.

Enclosed is a Petition For A One-Month Extension of Time and a check in the amount of \$55.00 to cover the petition filing fee.

For all the above reasons, Applicant now believes that the application should be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If, for some reason, any other issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank O. McDougale", written in black ink.

Frank O. McDougale
812 South 8th Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 251-2628
Applicant and Inventor